

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 6893
OFFERED BY MR. HUFFMAN OF CALIFORNIA

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Chesapeake Bay Wa-
3 tershed Advancement for Training, Education, Restora-
4 tion, and Science (WATERS) Act”.

5 SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
6 ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION CHESA-
7 PEAKE BAY OFFICE.

8 Section 307 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
9 Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (15 U.S.C.
10 1511d) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “(in this
13 section” and all that follows and inserting a pe-
14 riod;

15 (B) in paragraph (2), to read as follows:

16 “(2) The Office shall be headed by a Director, who—

1 “(A) shall have knowledge and experience in re-
2 search or resource management efforts in the Ches-
3 apeake Bay; and

4 “(B) shall be responsible for the administration
5 and operation of the Office and the implementation
6 of this section.”; and

7 (C) by striking paragraph (3);
8 (2) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “Sec-
10 retary of Commerce” and inserting “Adminis-
11 trator”;

12 (B) in paragraph (3)—

13 (i) by inserting “with and represent”
14 after “coordinate”;

15 (ii) by striking “, the Chesapeake Bay
16 Regional Sea Grant Programs, and the
17 Chesapeake Bay units of the National Es-
18 tuarine Research Reserve System,” and in-
19 serting “for the Chesapeake Bay Program
20 and that relate to the Chesapeake Bay wa-
21 tershed in furtherance of such Administra-
22 tion’s coastal resource stewardship mis-
23 sion,”;

24 (iii) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (I) in clauses (vi) and (vii), by
2 striking “and” at the end; and

3 (II) by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(viii) coastal hazards; and

6 “(ix) education; and”; and

7 (iv) in subparagraph (B)—

8 (I) in clause (iii), by striking
9 “and” at the end;

10 (II) in clause (iv), by inserting
11 “and” after the semicolon; and

12 (III) by adding at the end the
13 following:

14 “(v) integrated ecosystem assess-
15 ments;”;

16 (C) in paragraph (4)—

17 (i) by striking “Environmental Pro-
18 tection Agency” and inserting “Chesapeake
19 Executive Council”; and

20 (ii) by inserting before the semicolon
21 at the end the following: “as appropriate to
22 further the purposes of this section”;

23 (D) by striking paragraphs (5) and (7);

24 (E) by redesignating paragraph (6) as
25 paragraph (5); and

1 (F) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(6) perform any functions necessary to sup-
3 port the programs referred to in paragraph (3).”;

4 (3) by striking subsections (c), (d), and (e); and

5 (4) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(c) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, acting
8 through the Director, shall implement the program
9 activities authorized by this section to support the
10 activity of the Chesapeake Executive Council and to
11 further the purposes of this section.

12 “(2) ENSURING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
13 MERIT.—The Director shall—

14 “(A) establish and use an effective and
15 transparent mechanism to ensure that projects
16 funded under this section have undergone ap-
17 propriate peer review; and

18 “(B) provide other appropriate means to
19 determine that such projects have acceptable
20 scientific and technical merit for the purpose of
21 achieving maximum use of available funds and
22 resources to benefit the Chesapeake Bay area.

23 “(3) CONSULTATION WITH CHESAPEAKE EXEC-
24 UTIVE COUNCIL.—The Director shall, in the imple-
25 mentation of the program activities authorized under

1 this section, consult with the Chesapeake Executive
2 Council, to ensure that the activities of the Office
3 are consistent with the purposes and priorities of the
4 Chesapeake Bay Agreement and plans developed
5 pursuant to the such agreement.

6 “(4) INTEGRATED COASTAL OBSERVATIONS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator,
8 acting through the Director, may collaborate
9 with scientific and academic institutions, State
10 and Federal agencies, nongovernmental organi-
11 zations, and other constituents in the Ches-
12 apeake Bay watershed to support an integrated
13 observations system for the Chesapeake Bay
14 consistent with the purposes of the Integrated
15 Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of
16 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.).

17 “(B) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—To sup-
18 port the system referred to in subparagraph (A)
19 and provide a complete set of environmental in-
20 formation for the Chesapeake Bay, the Director
21 shall—

22 “(i) coordinate monitoring with Fed-
23 eral and State agencies in the tidal por-
24 tions of the Chesapeake Bay to understand

1 impacts of water quality on living marine
2 resources;

3 “(ii) identify new data collection needs
4 and deploy new technologies, as appro-
5 priate;

6 “(iii) collect and analyze the scientific
7 information necessary for the management
8 of living marine resources and the marine
9 habitat associated with such resources; and

10 “(iv) organize the information de-
11 scribed in clause (iii) into products that
12 are useful to policy makers, resource man-
13 agers, scientists, and the public.

14 “(C) CHESAPEAKE BAY INTERPRETIVE
15 BUOY SYSTEM.—To further the development
16 and implementation of the Chesapeake Bay In-
17 terpretive Buoy System and associated moni-
18 toring assets to improve weather and ecological
19 forecasts, monitor habitat conditions for living
20 marine resources, the Director may—

21 “(i) support the establishment and
22 implementation of the Captain John Smith
23 Chesapeake National Historic Trail;

1 “(ii) delineate key waypoints along the
2 trail and provide appropriate real-time
3 data and information for trail users;

4 “(iii) interpret data and information
5 for use by educators and students to in-
6 spire stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay;
7 and

8 “(iv) incorporate the observational
9 data from the Chesapeake Bay Interpretive
10 Buoy System into the Integrated Ocean
11 Observing System regional observing sys-
12 tem network.

13 “(5) CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED EDU-
14 CATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator,
16 acting through the Director, may establish a
17 Chesapeake Bay watershed education and train-
18 ing program. The program shall—

19 “(i) continue and expand the Chesa-
20 peake Bay watershed education programs
21 offered by the Office immediately before
22 the enactment of the Chesapeake Bay Wa-
23 tershed Advancement for Training, Edu-
24 cation, Restoration, and Science
25 (WATERS) Act;

1 “(ii) improve the understanding of el-
2 ementary and secondary school students
3 and teachers of the living resources of the
4 ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay;

5 “(iii) provide education and career
6 pathway internships; and

7 “(iv) meet the educational goals of the
8 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

9 “(B) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Director
10 may award grants for the purposes of this para-
11 graph. Grants awarded under this subpara-
12 graph may be used to support education and
13 training projects that enhance understanding
14 and assessment of a specific environmental
15 problem in the Chesapeake Bay watershed or a
16 goal of the Chesapeake Bay Program, or pro-
17 tect or restore living resources of the Chesa-
18 peake Bay watershed, including projects that—

19 “(i) provide classroom education, in-
20 cluding the development and use of dis-
21 tance learning and other innovative tech-
22 nologies, related to the Chesapeake Bay
23 watershed;

1 “(ii) provide meaningful watershed
2 educational experiences in the Chesapeake
3 Bay watershed;

4 “(iii) provide professional development
5 for teachers related to the Chesapeake Bay
6 watershed and the dissemination of perti-
7 nent education materials oriented to vary-
8 ing grade levels;

9 “(iv) demonstrate or disseminate envi-
10 ronmental educational tools and materials
11 related to the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

12 “(v) demonstrate field methods, prac-
13 tices, and techniques including assessment
14 of environmental and ecological conditions
15 and analysis of environmental problems;
16 and

17 “(vi) build the capacity of school dis-
18 tricts and their partners to deliver high
19 quality environmental education programs.

20 “(C) COORDINATION.—The Director shall
21 implement the education and training program
22 in coordination with the heads of other Federal
23 agencies, as the Director determines appro-
24 priate.

1 “(6) COASTAL AND LIVING RESOURCES MAN-
2 AGEMENT AND HABITAT PROGRAM.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator,
4 acting through the Director, may establish a
5 Chesapeake Bay Coastal Living Resources Man-
6 agement and Habitat Program to support co-
7 ordinated management, protection, character-
8 ization, and restoration of priority Chesapeake
9 Bay habitats and living resources, including
10 oysters, blue crabs, salt marshes, submerged
11 aquatic vegetation, and economically and eco-
12 logically important fish species such as striped
13 bass and menhaden.

14 “(B) ACTIVITIES.—Under the Chesapeake
15 Bay Coastal Living Resources Management and
16 Habitat Program, the Director may carry out
17 or enter into grants, contracts, and cooperative
18 agreements and provide technical assistance to
19 support—

20 “(i) native oyster research and res-
21 toration;

22 “(ii) fish and shellfish aquaculture
23 that is carried out in accordance with a
24 valid Federal or State permit;

1 “(iii) establishment of submerged
2 aquatic vegetation restoration programs;

3 “(iv) the development of programs
4 that restore, protect, and build the resil-
5 ience of critical coastal habitats and com-
6 munities;

7 “(v) habitat mapping, characteriza-
8 tion, and assessment techniques necessary
9 to identify, assess, and monitor Ches-
10 peake Bay conditions and restoration ac-
11 tions;

12 “(vi) application and transfer of ap-
13 plied scientific research and ecosystem
14 management tools to fisheries and habitat
15 managers;

16 “(vii) collection, synthesis, and shar-
17 ing of information to inform and influence
18 coastal and living resource management
19 issues;

20 “(viii) ecologically and economically
21 important fish and shellfish research; and

22 “(ix) other activities that the director
23 determines are appropriate to carry out
24 the purposes of such program.

25 “(d) DELEGATION.—

1 “(1) AUTHORITY.—The Administrator shall del-
2 egate to the Director such authority as may be nec-
3 essary to carry out this section.

4 “(2) STAFF.—The Administrator shall assign
5 to the Director appropriate staff representing exper-
6 tise that covers the breadth of the duties of the Of-
7 fice.

8 “(e) REPORTS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, acting
10 through the Director, shall submit a biennial report
11 to the Committee on Natural Resources of the
12 House of Representatives, the Committee on Com-
13 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate,
14 and the Secretary of Commerce on the activities of
15 the Office and on progress made in protecting and
16 restoring the living resources and habitat of the
17 Chesapeake Bay.

18 “(2) ACTION PLAN.—Each such report shall in-
19 clude an action plan for the 2-year period following
20 submission of the report, consisting of—

21 “(A) a list of recommended research, moni-
22 toring, and data collection activities necessary
23 to continue implementation of the strategy
24 under subsection (b)(2); and

1 “(B) recommendations to integrate Na-
2 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
3 activities with the activities of the partners in
4 the Chesapeake Bay Program to meet the com-
5 mitments of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement
6 and subsequent agreements.

7 “(f) AGREEMENTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, acting
9 through the Director, may enter into and perform
10 such contracts, leases, grants, or cooperative agree-
11 ments as may be necessary to carry out the purposes
12 of this Act.

13 “(2) USE OF OTHER RESOURCES.—For pur-
14 poses related to the understanding, protection, and
15 restoration of Chesapeake Bay, the Director may
16 use, with consent and with or without reimburse-
17 ment, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and
18 facilities of any Department, agency, or instrumen-
19 tality of the United States, or of any State, local
20 government, Indian Tribe, or of any political sub-
21 division thereof.

22 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 “(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-
24 trator’ means the Administrator of the National
25 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

1 “(2) CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENT; CHESA-
2 PEAKE BAY ECOSYSTEM; CHESAPEAKE BAY PRO-
3 GRAM; CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.—The
4 terms ‘Chesapeake Bay Agreement’, ‘Chesapeake
5 Bay ecosystem’, ‘Chesapeake Bay Program’, and
6 ‘Chesapeake Executive Council’ have the meanings
7 given those terms in section 117(a) of the Federal
8 Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1267(a)).

9 “(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
10 the Director of the Office.

11 “(4) OFFICE.—The term ‘Office’ means the
12 Chesapeake Bay Office established under this sec-
13 tion.”.

